



2002 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus:

Clusters of restoration projects can be found in areas historically drained for agriculture production including Warren County in northwestern New Jersey, Burlington County in central New Jersey and Cumberland County in South Jersey's Delaware Bay region.

In December 2002 New Jersey NRCS signed onto the "Delaware Bay Initiative", a memorandum of understanding with Ducks Unlimited, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service to further wetland conservation efforts, including WRP, in this globally important wetland ecosystem.

New Jersey Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

New Jersey WRP projects have included restoration of coastal wetlands formerly used as salt hay; blueberry and cranberry areas restored to native Pineland wetland habitat; and drained hay land, pastureland and cropland restored to various palustrine wetland habitats such as emergent wetlands, scrub/shrub wetlands and forested wetlands.

Accomplishments

Since 1995, ten applications for permanent easements have been funded, representing about 500 acres of wetland restoration. Appraised easement values have ranged from \$100 per acre to over \$3500 per acre, depending upon the present agricultural use. Lands in active agricultural production with high value crops have received the highest easement payments. A total of seven, 10-year restoration cost share agreements have been funded since 1995 including two in 2002.

Program Benefits

The benefits of WRP include wildlife habitat improvement, water quality protection and floodwater retention. In addition, New Jersey landowners, which participate in WRP, may enjoy reduced property taxes on enrolled acreage.

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WRP New Jersey Dollars and Contracts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (95-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 2	\$155,255	1	\$304,600	4
District 3	\$0	0	\$219,589	5
District 4	\$0	0	\$14,150	2
District 5	\$19,745	2	\$123,065	4
District 12	\$0	0	\$51,352	2
State Totals	\$175,000	3	\$712,756	17

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